

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes that are obtainable~~ A
polyelectrolyte comprising a polymer prepared by polymerization of monomers of
(meth)acrylamide, a quaternized (meth)acrylamide derivative, a (meth)acrylic acid derivative
and/or hydrolysis-stable cationic monomers, the composition of the polyelectrolyte being
characterized by a toxicity index

$$Fi = (Q_{TP} - 2Q_{ME})/10 \leq 1$$

where

Q_{TP} = total cationic charge of the polymer

Q_{ME} = charge proportion of the an ester-type monomer.

Claim 2: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to
claim 1, ~~characterized in that they have~~ wherein the polyelectrolyte has a total charge of 1 to
99 mol%.

Claim 3: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to
~~claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~terpolymers have~~ polymer has a
solution viscosity of 10 to 2000 mPas.

Claim 4: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to
~~claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the quaternized acrylamide derivative is
3-dimethylammoniumpropyl(meth)acrylamide quaternized with methyl chloride (DIMAPA-
Quat).

Claim 5: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the quaternized acrylamide derivative is 2-dimethylammoniummethyl(meth)acrylate quaternized with methyl chloride (ADAME-Quat).

Claim 6: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~terpolymers contain~~ polymer contains 0.1 to 20 wt% of a highly cationic, low molecular weight polyelectrolyte.

Claim 7: (Currently Amended):

~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that they are terpolymers~~ wherein the polyelectrolyte is a polymer that ~~are obtainable~~ is obtained by polymerization of monomers of (meth)acrylamide, a quaternized (meth)acrylamide derivative and a (meth)acrylic acid derivative, and/or hydrolysis-stable cationic monomers.

Claim 8: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~polymers are~~ polymer is synthesized by ~~the~~ a gel polymerization method.

Claim 9: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~polymers are~~ polymer is synthesized by ~~the~~ an emulsion polymerization method.

Claim 10: (Currently Amended): ~~Polyelectrolytes~~ A polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that ~~wherein the polymers are~~ polymer is synthesized by ~~the~~ a suspension polymerization method.

Claim 11: (Currently Amended): ~~The use of polyelectrolytes according to claims 1 to 10~~ A method for dewatering of sewage sludges sludge comprising utilizing the polyelectrolyte claimed in claim 1.

Claim 12: (Currently Amended): ~~The use of polyelectrolytes according to claims 1 to 10~~ A method for purification of waste water or conditioning of potable water comprising purifying waste water or conditioning potable water with the polyelectrolyte as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 13: (Currently Amended): ~~The use of polyelectrolytes according to claims 1 to 10~~ A method for manufacture of paper or cardboard comprising manufacturing paper or cardboard with the polyelectrolyte as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 14: (Currently Amended): ~~Water-in-water~~ A water-in-water polymer ~~dispersions~~ dispersion, characterized in that ~~they contain polyelectrolytes~~ comprising a polyelectrolyte according to ~~claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1.